

Remarks

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in conducting the Office Interview of August 14, 2003. This Amendment was prepared in accordance with the discussions and agreements in the Interview.

As agreed, Applicants have amended the independent claims of the application, i.e., claims 8, 31, and 37, to more particularly define that a clamp is prestressed by elastic cross-sectional widening and that the strand sections are secured between the clamp and the core exclusively by frictional clamping which is dependent on an amount the clamp is prestressed. As agreed, Applicants respectfully submit that the references to Reisinger and Aksit et al., either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest these claimed features.

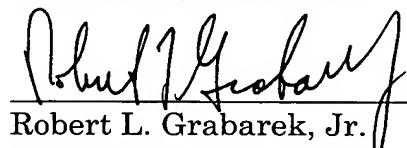
Further in this Amendment, Applicants have also amended several of the claims for matters of form and canceled claims 16 - 19, 24, 29, 33 - 34, and 39 - 41. Applicants respectfully submit that, as agreed, these amendments overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have also amended the specification due to a typographical error.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

As discussed above, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 225MU/50870US).

Date: 8/27/03

Respectfully submitted,



Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Registration No. 40,625

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844